from time to time, the States impose power cuts of varying degrees on different classes of consumers.

(b) The reasons for power shortage are increase in demand and reduced hydro-generation on account of low reservoir level. With a view to improve the power supply position, efforts are being made to expedite commissioning of new capacity, improve the performance of thermal power stations, reduce the down time of thermal power stations on forced outages etc.

Loss of Coal .....

544. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of coal is lost in the transit from the coal mines to the destinations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the estimated losses during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated by Government to prevent such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal companies sell coal on FOR colliery basis. After the coal is handed over to the Railways, it is not possible for the coal companies to have any control or assessment or loss of coal in transit. However, the Railways have taken a number of steps to prevent the loss of coal during rail transit. These steps are:

(1) As far as possible, Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed to escort block-loads of coal wagons in crime prone areas|sections.

(2) Vulnerable yards and affected places which are prone for thefts of coal are also patrolled by armed RPF men as well as by dog squads with a view to tracking down the criminals indulging in theft of coal.

(3) Fixed prickets are posted|deployed in vulnerable sections|black spots to prevent theft of coal from running trains.

(4) Crime Intelligence staff of the Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect crime intelligence about the activities of coal thieves and receivers and conduct raids on them for the recovery of stolen coal and arrest of criminals|receivers.

Discovery of Oil Resources ....

545. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new oil resources were discovered in the off-shore regions and within the country during 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same indicating their potential; and

(c) what steps are being taken to exploit those resources commercially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Oil was discovered in the following prospects:—

ONSHORE	
Kaikalur	Andhra Pradesh
Namti	Assam
Shalmari	
OFFSHORE	
R-71	
CD	
CA	West Coast
B-42	
R-7A	

The potential of the finds and the commercial exploitation will depend upon further delineating drilling.

Annual requirements of petroleum and petroleum products .. ....

546. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirement of petroleum and its products;

(b) how much of the above was produced indigenously during 1986;

(c) the foreign exchange spent on imports of oil during 1986 to meet the country's requirements; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce the oil import bills in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The estimated requirement of crude oil and demand for petroleum products and their indigenous availability during 1986 were as under:—

(Million tonnes)

	Requirement/ demand	Indigenous availability
Crude Oil (Processing)	44.94	30.35
Petroleum products .	42.89	42.30

(c) The amount spent on import of crude oil and petroleum products during 1986 is estimated at Rs. 2519.97 crores.

(d) Apart from fiscal measures, the other measures taken to reduce the import of crude and petroleum products include:—

(i) Intensification of exploration efforts and increasing production of crude oil.

(ii) Increasing refining capacity and implementing conservation schemes to reduce fuel consumption within refineries.

(iii) Promotion of conservation activities by PCRA in various sectors of the economy viz. Industrial, Agriculture Transport and Domestic Sectors.

(iv) Encouraging the use of alternative fuels.

Natural gas located in the country

547. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of natural gas resources located so far in the country;

(b) the details of their potential and how far that potential has been exploited;

(c) how the natural gas is being used in the country; and

(d) whether it is proposed to set up an agency to work out schemes for the maximum use of the available natural gas resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Natural gas has been located in the country in the following basins:

Cambay (onshore)

Kutch-Saurashtra (Offshore)

Upper Assam (onshore)

Assam-Arakan Fold belt (onshore)

Rajasthan (onshore)

Kroshna-Godavari (onshore & offshore)

Cauvery (onshore & offshore)

Bombay offshore

Andaman offshore

(b) The quantum of balance recoverable reserves of gas estimated as on 1.1.86 in respect of the above basins are of the order of 497.0 billion cubic metre.

(c) Natural gas is being put to various uses like power generation, fertilizer production, domestic use and other industrial purposes including the internal use by ONGC & OIL.

(d) Government, along with GAIL ONGC and OIL are planning the use of gas to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from it.